

Message Text

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44

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 /040 W

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R 141333Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9367

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, MILI

SUBJECT: RANK OF MAAG CHIEF BONN

1. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY GENERAL EADE, DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF, UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND, AND BY MAJOR GENERAL WAGSTAFF, CHIEF MAAG GERMANY, THAT DOD IS NOW ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING THE AUTHORIZED RANK (MAJOR GENERAL) OF THE MAAG CHIEF. GENERAL WAGSTAFF, WHO IS RETIRING NEXT MONTH AND HAS NO DIRECT PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS ACTION, RECOMMENDED AGAINST A REDUCTION THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS. I AGREE IN GENERAL WITH HIS APPRAISAL OF THE SITUATION, AND THAT IS THE POINT OF THIS MESSAGE.

2. AN OFFICER OF THE RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL IS PERHAPS NOT NOW REQUIRED IN OUR MAAG FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE PURELY TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE MAAG'S RESPONSIBILITIES. I FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS SUCH A CHANGE, OR EVEN THE SUGGESTION OF A REDUCTION, WOULD HAVE AN UNDESIRABLE EFFECT ON OUR ABILITY TO FULFILL OUR MISSION HERE. CERTAINLY NO REDUCTION SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATION WITH DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER.

3. MAAG BONN HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS THREE MISSIONS: A) WORKING WITH INDUSTRY AND THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE FMS PROGRAM; B) CONDUCTING FOLLOW-ON LOGISTICAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS; AND C) STRENGTHENING THE BOND OF PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE TWO

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COUNTRIES. FULFILLMENT OF THESE MAJOR OBJECTIVES HAS

CONTRIBUTED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE, TO
STRENGTHENING THE CORE OF NATO THROUGH ITS CURRENT, AND
PROSPECTIVE, PERIODS OF DIFFICULTIES.

4. I COULD NOT, PARTICULARLY FOR THE LIMITED OBJECTIVE
OF SAVING ONE OR TWO GRADE LEVELS, CONCUR IN ANY ACTION
WHICH MIGHT WEAKEN OUR POLITICAL-MILITARY RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE FRG, AND POSSIBLY WORK TO OUR DISADVANTAGE
IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE AS WELL. THE SUGGESTED
REDUCTION WOULD BE SUCH AN ACTION.
HILLENBRAND

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